

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, for 5 years now Washington Republicans have refused to fund border security programs. But it is not only our effort at our borders, Republicans refuse to go after employers who break the law. Under their leadership, work site enforcement was cut back by 95 percent. As a result, the government prosecuted four employers in 2003 as opposed to 182 in 1999.

Securing our borders doesn't happen magically. It takes funding and it takes agents at the border, two things seriously lacking right now. Under pressure to act earlier this year, President Bush vowed to have 2,500 National Guard troops on our border by June 30, but all he could muster was 248. The administration claims the rest of the Guardsmen are now going through training. So much for keeping promises.

Now the House Republicans are seriously jeopardizing any real attempts to sign a border security bill into law this year. House Republicans simply refuse to negotiate a final bill, choosing instead to hold hearings on a bill they already passed.

The time for talking is over. It is time for House Republicans to join us to secure our borders.

THE HOUSE OF AMERICA

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, Joe Carcamo, an illegal El Salvadoran, had 17 driving violations when he drunkenly was drag racing down a Michigan street and hit two teenagers. He was driving 75 miles an hour. He cracked the skull of one of them and the other girl lost both her legs.

We could have stopped this reckless illegal after his first violation, which was breaking and entering into our country, but politics stops local law enforcement from making these arrests. Not so with Sheriff Joe Arpaio from Maricopa County. He is using an Arizona law that locks up smugglers and their customers, too, for conspiring to break the law.

The Mexican Government wants to help illegals break out of his jail by suing Sheriff Joe for just enforcing American law. The word is out: Coyote smugglers avoid Maricopa County and the High Sheriff Joe Arpaio.

Mr. Speaker, our sheriffs and Border Patrol do as good a job as we let them do, and our Nation must send out the word: Enter the House of America legally, or you will enter the jailhouse.

And that's just the way it is.

MINIMUM WAGE

(Mr. McGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, over the past decade, the cost of living in

our Nation has risen sharply and continues to grow. Gas prices have doubled, college costs are up by 38 percent, fuel prices up 20, housing costs another 25 percent, and health care costs are up a whopping 75 percent, yet the millions of Americans who work full time struggling to support their families have just been dealt another blow.

Last month, the Republicans in this body defeated a measure to raise the minimum wage, which has not been increased in an appalling 9 years. Instead of voting with Democrats to give a much needed pay raise to these workers, Republicans once again turned their backs on more than 6 million workers. You didn't see Republicans turning their backs on the wealthiest few last month when they repealed the estate tax that only impacts our Nation's wealthiest families.

Mr. Speaker, it isn't too late for House Republicans to change their minds. Today, we will have another vote here on the House floor to give these hardworking Americans a much deserved raise. House Republicans know that the minimum wage is at its lowest level in 50 years. Today, we will see if Republicans are interested in expanding economic opportunity to all.

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BUDGET UPDATE

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, the White House Office of Management and Budget just released its annual midyear budget update. Under article I of the Constitution, the House of Representatives has no higher priority than to see to the wise expenditure of the resources of the American people, and the word is, the news is good.

This year's budget deficit is now forecast to be \$296 billion, 2.3 percent of our economy, essentially equal to a historic average. The really good news is, the deficit is 30 percent below the administration's February forecast. Revenues grew by a dynamic 14.5 percent last year and are forecast to grow this year by \$245 billion, or 11.4 percent.

Revenues to the Federal Government are increasing because of the progrowth tax cuts that President Bush and this Republican majority brought forward. The tax cuts are working. The economy is growing. Revenues to the government are up. The deficit is down.

All in all, not a bad day's work.

INCREASE THE MINIMUM WAGE

(Mr. BAIRD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, because of Republican inaction, minimum-wage

workers have not been making a living wage for years now, and are forced to work 40 hours a week for wages that don't give enough money to afford increased housing, food, health care or gas costs. Gas prices are so high right now that it takes a minimum-wage worker an entire 8-hour shift just to afford one tank of gas.

Americans should be aware that CEOs in the first 4 hours they work make more in those 4 hours than a minimum-wage worker would earn in an entire year. The American people know that \$5.15 an hour is not enough to support a family, not by a darn sight.

Today, House Republicans have another chance to support expanding economic opportunity to millions of workers they have ignored for 9 years now. It is time the House Republicans think of someone other than their wealthy special interest friends and support average working Americans. Increase the minimum wage.

BROADCAST DECENCY ENFORCEMENT

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, it has been less than a month since President Bush signed the Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act into law, and it is already working. By increasing fines tenfold, this law seeks to deter broadcasters from breaking indecency laws.

And yesterday, The Washington Post reported that this deterrent is working. Orders for electronic editing equipment used to filter on-air obscenities have spiked. Some radio stations are requiring their DJs to either clean up or pay fines out of their own pockets. Radio giant Clear Channel has adopted a zero-tolerance policy for their on-air personalities, allowing them to be fired for using offensive language.

Some claim this is creating a chilling effect on free expression. Mr. Speaker, this is not a chilling effect, it is enforcing the law. Decency standards have not changed, but the incentive for obeying them has changed significantly, and that is exactly what the President and this Congress intended when we passed this important legislation.

For the sake of parents and children across the Nation, I am glad to see this law having an impact on cleaning up the airwaves.

RENEW VOTING RIGHTS ACT

(Ms. WATERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues to impart some history and context relative to the right to vote in America, an essential part of the democratic process. I

thank each of my colleagues for joining me to discuss this issue.

Today, a series of Members will come to the floor to tell you the truth about the barriers, both past and present, that have prevented Americans from voting.

The Voting Rights Act is one of the most important laws enacted by our government in the history of our democracy, because it allows the people to address past and present disenfranchisement as well as disparate conditions that will affect the ability to exercise voting rights in the future.

Passage of H.R. 9 to reauthorize and renew the 1965 Voting Rights Act is critical to our democracy and our democratic form of government and the free exercise of the voting rights of all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, the stories that you and America will hear today will underscore why the Voting Rights Act is so important and must be renewed. You will hear stories from Members of Congress who were voting age prior to the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that recount some of the extreme difficulties and egregious legal impediments that constrained their right to vote, and you will hear other stories about real people denied the right to vote.

NORTH KOREA'S MISSILE TESTS

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, last week shortly after the July 4 fireworks dwindled from the sky, the North Korean Government put the entire world on the edge of its seat when it hosted a much scarier fireworks show of its own.

I rise today in strong opposition to the test firing of missiles by the North Korean Government. This test firing amounts to little more than an attempted show of force by the North Koreans, and it must not be tolerated.

I support President Bush's proposal for multilateral discussions aimed at maintaining peace and stability in the region and urge the international community to stand alongside America in denouncing this threatening act.

These tests represent a grave threat to the entire global community, and North Korea must act responsibly and adhere to a moratorium on missile testing if peace is to be maintained. I trust that diplomatic discussions coupled with the international outrage following the missile tests will be enough to convince the North Korean Government to abandon its dangerous path.

RENEW VOTING RIGHTS ACT

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as one who grew up in the rural South

where my parents and their neighbors and friends had to pay a poll tax to vote, and as one who lives in an urban inner city community where polling places are oftentimes moved without proper notification and where unsuspecting voters are intimidated, especially those with language and education barriers, the Voting Rights Act is one of the best safeguards of our democracy that we have seen.

Mr. Speaker, I urge its renewal, I urge its passage.

GUN CONTROL DOESN'T WORK

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I find it extremely ironic that on the same day Washington Police Chief Charles Ramsey declared a crime emergency, The Washington Post has published another misguided editorial promoting the failed efforts of gun control.

The editorial attacked Members of Congress for failing to further restrict Americans' second amendment rights. The Post specifically criticized my statement that "responsible and law-abiding citizens do not need the government to tell them to be safe."

Perhaps they forgot, while the District of Columbia has some of the most restrictive gun laws in our country, it also has one of the highest murder rates in the Nation. Thirteen people have been killed in Washington in only the past 12 days.

Instead of petitioning Congress to place additional restrictions upon law-abiding citizens, perhaps The Post should push for tougher laws to help keep criminals off the streets of America.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11.

RENEW VOTING RIGHTS ACT

(Mr. WATT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, the rules of the House won't allow me to do what George H. White did in 1901 when he rose to address an agriculture bill for 5 minutes and ended up speaking for an hour and a half, giving his farewell to Congress and saying these words: "Mr. Speaker, this perhaps may be the temporary farewell of minorities and African Americans from this body, but some day we will rise up and come again."

Well, it took 92 years from that point in 1901 until 1993 when Eva Clayton and I returned to Congress as African American Members from North Carolina.

And thank God the laws won't allow the exclusion of African Americans and other minorities from this democracy any longer because of the Voting Rights Act.

We have got to renew it and extend it. We need to do it today in the House.

KEVIN ESTEP, VOLUNTEER HERO

(Mrs. CAPITO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding West Virginian, Kevin Estep, from Apple Grove, West Virginia. A volunteer with the National Service Agency, Kevin is the recipient of the 2006 Learn and Serve America Spirit of Service Award.

Kevin received his honor at the 2006 National Conference on Community Volunteering and National Service, which was held in Seattle, Washington, because of his service with HI-Y, a YMCA-affiliated leadership organization.

He has volunteered as a camp counselor, helped 7-to-12-year-old, low-income, at-risk boys and girls at the Governor's Youth Opportunity Camps at the YMCA Camp Horseshoe. He encourages children to read, try new things, build skills, and set goals for a better life.

A leader in his school, Kevin is an honor student with a 3.9 GPA, a member of the school band, and has two part-time jobs. As a graduate of Point Pleasant High School, he plans to attend Marshall University in Huntington in the fall. Kevin is a leader in his community at a young age, and he is a role model for his peers and younger West Virginians.

I commend him on his service to his community, State, Nation, and fellow citizens.

PASS VOTING RIGHTS ACT

(Mr. WYNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call on my Republican colleagues to bring up and pass the renewal of the Voting Rights Act.

On March 7, 1965, our colleague, JOHN LEWIS, and 500 civil rights activists marched from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. They paved the way for the Voting Rights Act.

My grandmother, Bella Russell, lives in Warren County, North Carolina. She is 98 years old. She knows all about the need for the Voting Rights Act. She experienced literacy tests and intimidation and other barriers to voting.

We needed the Voting Rights Act then and we need it today. We need it today because in my State of Maryland, people are still being told you have to pay all of your late fees on your rent in order to vote; you have to pay your parking tickets to vote.

Don't forget to vote on Wednesday. People are still being intimidated. We need the Voting Rights Act as an effective check on those who would deter other Americans from exercising their important right to vote.